

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU  
 IN COOPERATION WITH LAKE PLACID CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
 CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20 - 30

STATION LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK

LATITUDE 44° 17' N  
 LONGITUDE 73° 59' W  
 (GROUND) 1864 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1925-1954

Month	Temperature (°F)								Mean degree days * *	Precipitation Totals (Inches)						Mean number of days						Month	
	Means			Extremes						Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet, Hail			Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures						
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily		Year	90° and above	Max.		Min.		
																			30° and below	32° and below	32° and below		0° and below
30	30	30	30	1950	30	1935	30	30	30	1925	30	30	30	30	30	30	30						
Jan.	26.6	4.6	15.6	62	1925	-37	1943	1361	2.95	1.98	1925	25.5	45.3	1954	26.0	1925	10	0	21	30	13	Jan.	
Feb.	28.1	4.6	16.4	62	1925	-37	1943	1361	2.69	1.20	1953	26.0	43.4	1947	17.0	1946	9	0	18	28	11	Feb.	
Mar.	36.9	14.3	25.6	77	1946	-28	1938	1221	3.26	2.35	1932	24.9	60.2	1932	23.5	1932	10	0	12	29	5	Mar.	
Apr.	48.8	27.2	38.0	83	1941	-2	1954	810	2.67	1.50	1950	10.3	23.8	1943	12.5	1925	9	0	2	23	*	Apr.	
May	63.2	38.4	50.8	88	1930+	18	1947+	440	3.26	1.70	1947	0.3	4.0	1945	4.0	1945	9	0	*	9	0	May	
June	73.0	48.1	60.6	94	1944	26	1945	135	3.73	2.45	1947	T	T	1954+	T	1954+	9	1	0	1	0	June	
July	77.1	52.3	64.7	97	1953	34	1946+	16	4.03	3.58	1945	0	0		0		8	1	0	0	0	July	
Aug.	74.8	50.0	62.4	94	1948+	28	1940	74	3.46	2.20	1953	0	0		0		8	1	0	*	0	Aug.	
Sept.	67.4	43.0	55.2	90	1953+	20	1947	294	3.71	2.95	1938	T	0.5	1950	0.5	1950	8	*	0	5	0	Sept.	
Oct.	56.3	33.5	44.9	87	1951	5	1925	623	2.83	2.45	1932	1.8	10.5	1946	5.0	1946	8	0	*	16	0	Oct.	
Nov.	41.3	23.1	32.2	74	1950+	-11	1938	969	2.95	2.40	1950	11.4	30.4	1951+	14.0	1939	9	0	7	25	1	Nov.	
Dec.	28.2	9.7	19.0	62	1941	-36	1942+	1426	3.11	2.80	1952	22.1	61.1	1944	18.0	1952	9	0	19	28	9	Dec.	
Year	51.8	28.9	40.4	97	1953	-37	1943	8900	38.65	3.58	1945	122.3	61.1	1944	26.0	1925	187	3	79	194	39	Year	

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

\* Less than one half.

\*\* Base 65°F

NARRATIVE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Lake Placid, a winter and summer vacation and resort center, is located in the central portion of the Adirondack Mountain preserve. It is surrounded by some of the loftiest mountains of the Adirondacks, including Mount Marcy (elevation 5344 feet) and Whiteface Mountain (over 4800 feet). It is in Lake Tear on the western slopes of Mount Marcy that the Hudson River has its beginning, flowing southward, while the Ausable River flows northeastward towards Lake Champlain. The area is abundant with ponds, lakes and small streams. The village of Lake Placid, where many years of weather records have been obtained, lies in a north-south valley area with an opening to the northeast towards Lake Champlain. The valley floor has an elevation around 1850 to 1900 feet. The surrounding hills and mountains are covered with coniferous and hardwood trees. The soil is a sandy loam with many rock outcroppings.

The proximity of the area to normal storm tracks which lie just along or to the north of the St. Lawrence Valley affords the area frequent changing weather patterns. The rugged mountain terrain and the relatively short distance to the central and eastern Canadian cold weather source regions results in a rigorous winter climate. Snowfall is bountiful and frequent, the snow cover is very persistent and usually covers the surface from December through March. The protected mountain slopes accumulate deep layers of snow, providing excellent conditions for winter sports. During the winter months maximum temperatures range below the freezing level more than half the time while minimum temperatures drop below the zero mark about 33% of the nights. The area averages more than 120 inches of annual snowfall. Occasional storms with depths up to two feet occur but generally individual storms are under six inches. There is little difference in monthly snowfall amounts from December through March. The weather moderates in April although snowfall for April runs to ten inches or more. Snow has occurred in all months of the year except July and August.

In spite of the heavy snows during the winter months the warmer months, June through September, have the greatest average precipitation, ranging up to an average of four inches in July. The warm month precipitation occurs chiefly as showers and thunderstorms as a result of the rugged mountain terrain and its

proximity to the principal storm tracks. Due to the mountainous terrain and the area's more northerly latitude the warm month climate is mild and pleasant. Maximum daytime temperatures normally range in the 70's from June through August, but occasionally go into the 90's. Nighttime temperatures are almost always cool or at comfortable levels during warm months and drop to the 40's and 50's most nights. Freezing nighttime temperatures occur through May and begin again in September. On occasion subfreezing occurs in July and August. The rugged winter climate with bountiful snowfall and the cool summer weather with low maximum daytime temperatures combines with the rugged mountainous terrain and many lakes and ponds to produce excellent conditions for recreational and resort businesses. These same factors restrict the agriculture of the area. The growing season averages less than 100 days. Although specific values of possible sunshine are not available, interpolated values based on other records in the state indicate that the area can expect around 40% of the possible hours in January and about 60% in July. Although humidity does not vary materially across the state and no specific record is available for the Lake Placid area, it is reasonable to expect humidity values somewhat lower than those recorded over lower terrain areas of the state. As a rule the Lake Placid area is not subject to severe and damaging storms. A small tornado did occur at Lake Placid on May 6, 1952, the only storm of the kind to be reported in the area since the beginning of the record in 1897.

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Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1925	14.2	26.8	39.1	40.8	46.8	63.5	62.4	63.2	55.3	40.0	32.1	21.0	41.6
1926	18.5	14.6	21.2	31.9	47.6	57.0	64.4	62.4	54.7	43.8	31.8	14.0	38.5
1927	17.3	20.8	21.2	39.0	47.0	56.6	64.6	65.1	47.8	49.4	40.1	27.2	42.1
1928	16.8	17.4	24.0	34.0	48.8	55.8	63.6	57.4	51.6	47.4	34.0	26.0	40.4
1929	15.3	18.0	32.3	40.4	50.9	60.5	63.2	58.7	57.8	41.4	31.7	18.7	40.7
1930	17.2	19.0	23.2	36.8	53.0	64.8	63.5	60.4	57.9	44.0	34.8	20.8	41.3
1931	13.8	16.0	27.8	41.4	52.8	59.8	67.5	62.4	58.6	47.8	38.6	21.9	42.4
1932	27.0	17.5	20.7	34.6	52.4	59.2	61.6	63.8	56.4	47.4	28.4	25.2	41.2
1933	24.8	18.4	22.2	39.9	53.3	62.6	65.2	62.9	57.4	44.8	22.7	13.9	40.7
1934	15.3	1.2	22.4	39.9	52.5	62.1	65.0	58.6	60.4	40.1	36.0	13.6	38.9
1935	9.0	13.6	26.4	37.4	45.8	59.1	67.5	62.4	51.2	44.6	33.8	13.8	38.7
1936	12.4	10.1	32.2	37.4	54.2	60.3	65.0	61.0	55.2	44.0	25.2	21.6	39.6
1937	24.0	22.5	18.3	37.1	52.8	60.2	66.2	67.6	53.3	41.5	31.8	17.2	41.0
1938	13.4	17.4	27.3	40.6	50.0	61.4	64.8	65.6	50.4	47.0	34.0	19.2	40.9
1939	13.2	17.2	20.4	34.6	51.3	60.0	64.2	65.6	54.3	43.9	25.7	18.4	39.1
1940	6.6	14.4	19.8	34.4	52.2	58.8	63.6	61.4	53.2	39.5	29.5	20.4	37.8
1941	10.7	13.9	18.2	43.9	51.8	61.7	65.2	58.6	56.5	43.2	34.2	20.3	39.8
1942	13.2	11.7	30.3	41.6	55.0	61.2	63.5	62.0	54.6	44.4	30.8	14.0	40.2
1943	10.6	14.0	22.4	30.8	50.0	62.9	64.8	61.1	54.1	42.8	28.6	11.6	37.8
1944	16.7	12.4	20.3	33.8	56.9	60.8	65.8	65.3	55.5	41.6	31.3	13.2	39.5
1945	6.5	17.7	34.6	43.3	45.6	59.2	63.8	62.4	57.3	41.4	31.8	14.0	39.8
1946	15.0	11.1	27.6	36.6	49.9	59.4	63.4	59.3	56.6	48.0	28.0	20.0	41.0
1947	17.4	12.6	31.8	36.2	49.6	59.6	66.2	67.6	56.8	42.9	35.4	18.6	40.5
1948	8.6	12.0	25.8	40.2	48.4	58.8	65.7	64.1	56.4	42.6	39.5	22.8	40.4
1949	20.5	21.6	26.2	40.0	53.0	66.4	68.4	64.7	54.0	50.7	29.1	22.0	43.0
1950	23.5	14.4	18.4	35.3	51.5	60.6	64.2	61.4	51.2	48.1	35.1	19.9	40.3
1951	18.8	19.6	28.1	40.3	52.3	59.9	65.1	61.9	55.9	47.2	27.0	21.0	41.4
1952	17.7	21.0	26.4	42.2	47.6	61.2	68.0	63.6	57.1	39.5	36.1	22.6	41.9
1953	21.1	21.9	28.7	38.6	53.6	62.1	65.7	61.2	55.5	46.8	37.5	25.2	43.1
1954	9.5	21.9	24.5	39.4	49.2	62.1	61.2	59.8	52.6	48.7	32.8	18.8	40.0

STATION HISTORY

Records of temperature and precipitation at Lake Placid begin with August 1897 and are fragmentary through March 1900. The observers were J. A. and G. A. Stevens; exact location of the station and exposure unknown. The latitude 44°17', longitude 73°59', elevation 1900 feet above sea level. The station was designated as Lake Placid Club in January 1909 and no change in name has occurred since then. The latitude and longitude are the same as for the lake Placid station given above, the elevation 1864 feet above sea level. The station is located 0.1 mile southeast of Lake Placid Club post office and is a ground exposure near the shore of Mirror Lake in wooded, mountainous terrain. Observers from January 1909 through September 1955 were Henry M. Hoffer, Paul D. Earl, T. Morris Longstreth, J. B. Sargent, E. G. Walker, W. Haley Hogg, Robert Howan, George J. Smith, Jr.

A recording rain gage was installed July 1941 and the record published under the name of Lake Placid from that date through May 1943, with observations by always observer. On June 1, 1943, the gage was moved to Lake Placid Club where the record has been continued.

The present observer is Sheridan Maynard, Lake Placid Club.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1925	2.89	2.02	3.91	1.31	3.70	5.19	3.36	2.76	6.26	4.30	1.63	1.50	38.83
1926	2.16	1.90	2.50	3.15	1.61	3.99	3.48	6.50	4.00	2.54	2.53	1.98	36.37
1927	1.70	3.93	0.66	1.35	3.46	1.73	3.32	4.13	2.51	4.33	6.38	5.81	39.31
1928	3.55	1.90	3.26	1.20	2.14	2.64	3.78	4.01	2.40	2.45	2.40	1.45	31.18
1929	1.85	2.00	4.05	4.65	3.52	6.20	6.53	2.85	2.32	3.55	3.05	2.90	43.47
1930	3.00	0.85	3.05	1.65	4.85	4.78	3.48	1.98	1.90	1.65	2.00	1.40	30.59
1931	3.68	1.73	2.80	1.17	3.86	1.31	3.89	1.41	5.74	2.12	2.46	2.57	32.34
1932	3.74	3.19	6.59	3.08	2.86	3.39	8.22	3.68	1.27	7.08	3.32	2.69	49.11
1933	2.96	3.93	3.86	2.97	3.89	2.25	2.33	4.44	3.23	1.39	2.84	2.84	37.68
1934	2.91	2.30	2.81	1.87	1.24	4.41	2.07	1.80	3.41	2.72	2.80	3.34	31.68
1935	4.01	2.53	1.26	2.89	2.90	5.88	5.89	3.08	4.14	2.14	2.65	1.31	38.68
1936	3.69	1.84	4.26	3.95	3.50	2.98	3.00	4.58	4.68	4.76	2.25	3.12	42.61
1937	3.13	2.31	4.21	2.26	5.06	4.55	1.83	4.08	2.76	2.68	2.30	2.63	37.80
1938	2.48	3.73	3.40	2.00	2.77	2.14	6.84	4.48	2.93	1.17	2.50	3.26	42.83
1939	4.55	4.32	2.71	2.48	1.99	3.69	1.74	2.05	2.92	2.28	1.82	3.11	34.26
1940	2.43	2.25	5.26	2.76	2.63	6.65	4.75	0.87	4.28	2.86	2.26	4.52	41.52
1941	2.18	2.11	3.65	0.61	2.31	2.04	3.85	2.20	1.71	3.79	1.83	2.96	29.24
1942	2.06	4.24	2.93	3.37	2.72	4.39	1.40	2.55	5.58	2.09	1.93	3.64	36.90
1943	1.81	2.54	1.45	2.58	3.81	6.58	3.12	5.28	2.33	3.29	4.49	1.52	38.80
1944	3.14	2.37	1.78	3.52	1.62	3.97	5.56	1.65	4.62	1.93	1.00	6.14	37.30
1945	3.22	2.46	2.53	3.77	6.47	2.17	7.17	1.62	7.93	5.07	3.43	1.01	46.85
1946	3.67	2.91	1.86	2.57	3.70	2.35	3.70	3.34	3.30	5.00	4.11	4.11	40.04
1947	3.89	2.11	2.96	2.23	6.49	7.39	8.60	1.25	2.86	0.55	2.86	1.76	42.41
1948	1.71	1.83	2.28	2.80	5.69	3.75	4.19	3.29	1.45	2.22	4.35	3.46	37.02
1949	3.07	2.43	2.29	2.35	2.25	1.70	2.81	5.94	3.27	2.12	2.40	2.69	33.32
1950	2.52	2.89	5.60	2.85	1.04	2.05	2.79	5.85	4.38	1.12	5.52	4.11	40.72
1951	3.08	3.46	3.15	3.32	2.06	2.14	5.87	4.41	2.86	1.65	5.19	4.39	41.98
1952	2.33	3.20	3.15	2.18	3.21	3.56	1.27	3.92	2.13	2.75	6.22	35.51	36.56
1953	3.24	3.51	4.46	3.99	3.26	1.22	2.51	5.53	2.71	1.80	2.70	2.70	36.56
1954	4.35	3.90	5.11	5.27	3.11	6.71	3.52	3.71	6.86	3.45	4.27	4.59	54.85